

Signed Fractions and Decimals

Use the same processes with signed fractions and decimals as are done with integers (positive and negative whole numbers.)

Example 1: Compute $\frac{1}{3} + \left(-\frac{9}{20}\right)$

Solution: When adding a positive number and a negative number, subtract the values and the number further from zero determines the sign.

$$\frac{1}{3} + -\frac{9}{20} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{20}{20} + -\frac{9}{20} \cdot \frac{3}{3} = \frac{20}{60} + -\frac{27}{60} = -\frac{7}{60}$$

Example 2: Compute $-1.25 - (-3.90) = 2.65$

Solution: Change any subtraction problem to “addition of the opposite” and then follow the addition process.

$$-1.25 - (-3.9) \Rightarrow -1.25 + 3.9 = -1.25 + 3.90 = 2.65$$

Example 3: Compute $-1\frac{1}{4} \div 7\frac{1}{2}$

Solution: With multiplication or division, if the signs are the same, then the answer is positive. If the signs are different, then the answer is negative.

$$-1\frac{1}{4} \div 7\frac{1}{2} = -\frac{5}{4} \div \frac{15}{2} = -\frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{2}{15} = -\frac{\cancel{5} \cdot \cancel{2}}{\cancel{2} \cdot 3 \cdot \cancel{3}} = -\frac{1}{6}$$

Solve.

15. $-5\frac{1}{2} \div -\frac{3}{4}$

16. $10\frac{5}{8} + \left(-2\frac{1}{2}\right)$

17. $5\frac{1}{5} + \left(-2\frac{2}{15}\right)$

18. $12\frac{3}{4} - \left(-1\frac{5}{8}\right)$

19. $(0.3) \cdot (-0.032)$

20. $-8.4 \div -2.5$

21. $5\frac{1}{12} - (-2\frac{6}{7})$

22. $-6\frac{1}{7} \cdot -\frac{4}{5}$

23. $-2\frac{3}{8} \div 3\frac{1}{4}$

24. $-4\frac{3}{10} - 1\frac{1}{5}$

25. $-3.4 + (-32.65)$

26. $-7.5 - 14.93$